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The People's Korea

No. 1.020 | EVERY SATURDAY | NOVEMBER 29, 1980 | Per Copy Price:¥250 (US$1.00)

Pyongyang Mails Letters to S. Korean Figures for N-S Confederation

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland on Nov. 20 sent by international mail, to begin with, to south Korean politicians and personages of various circles letters proposing to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo adopted at a joint meeting of political parties and public organizations held in Pyongyang on Nov. 11. **(See the last issue of The People's Korea)**

In this connection, a spokesman of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland said that the Pyongyang side was constrained to make a step of making public at home and abroad through newspapers, radio and news agency the addresses of the letters, taking note of the fact that the Seoul side seized it on the way, barring it from reaching the addresses, each time Pyongyang sent letters to south Korean personages of all circles proposing dialogue and contact in the past.

The spokesman expressed the hope that the south Korean politicians and figures of various circles would actively respond to the new momentous proposal by the DPRK.

Follows the list of the names of personages of political, social, religious, press and academic circles of south Korea to whom the letters were sent:

Yun Bo Son, former "president", **Kim Jong Pil**, former president of the DRP, **Kim Yong Sam**, former president of the NDP, **Kim Rok Su**, 10th national assembly member (DUP), **An Pil Su**, former chairman of the USP, **Choe Gyu Ha**, former "president", **Ham Sok Hon**, Christian leader, **Kim So Hwan**, Cardinal, member of the Sacred Congregation for the Bishops, **Choe Jae Gu**, 10th national assembly member (DRP), **Sin Hyon Hwak**, former prime minister, **Chong Il Gwon**, former national assembly speaker, **Paek Du Jin**, former national assembly speaker, **Ho Jong**, adviser to the NUB, **Pak Chung Hun**, chief director of the Korea Advanced Institution of Science, **Pak Sun Chon**, woman politican, **Li Hyo Sang**, former standing advisor to the DRP, **Pak Jun Gyu**, former acting chairman of the DRP, **Paek Nam Ok**, former standing adviser to the DRP'S president, **Yu Jin O**, former adviser to the NDP, **Li Min U**, former vice-president of the NDP, **Pak Yong Rok**, former vice-president of the NDP, **Li Gi Taek**, former vice-president of the NDP, **Cho Yun Hyong**, **Chon Hwa Am**, **Yun Je Sul**, former member of the supreme committee of the DUP, **Li Bong Hak**, **Li Tae Gu**, **Choe Yong Hui**, floor leader of Yujong-hoe, **Tae Wan Son**, 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Han Tae Yen**, former chairman of the policy committee of Yujong-hoe, **Kim Ju In**, 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Li Jong Chan**, 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Chon Rye Yong**, former acting DRP chairman, **Chang Yong Sun**, 10th national assembly member (DRP), **Kim Chang Gwon**, **Yang Chan U**, 10th national assembly member of the DRP, **Kim Ryong Ho**, 10th national assembly member of the DRP, **Hwang Rak Ju**, former NDP floor leader, **Li Taek Don**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **An Gyun Sop**, **Kim Gyong In**, former chairman of the policy committee of the DUP, **Li Hae Won**, 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Chi Hak Sun**, **Bishop**, **Pak Hyong Gyu**, **Mun Jong Hyon**, **Ham Se Ung**, **Li Man Ha**, **Li Byong Hui**, former DRP counsellor, **Kil Jon Sik**, former adviser to the DRP, **Kim So Yong**, **Ryuk In Su**, former chairman of the DRP central committee, **Choe Chi Hwan**, 10th national assembly member (DRP), **Min Gwan Sik**, former vice-speaker of the national assembly, **Kim Yu Tai**, former vice-chairman of the DRP policy committee, **Ku Tae Hui**, former member of the DRP party affairs committee, **Hyon O Bong**, former chairman of the national assembly house steering committee, **Kim Ryong Tae**, 10th national assembly member (DRP), **Chang Gyong Sun**, 10th national assembly member (DRP), **Kim In Sik**, former member of the DRP party affairs committee, **Ryu Sung Won**, former member of the DRP party affairs committee, **Yu Chang Sun**, former member of the DRP party affairs committee, **Li Man Sop**, former member of the DRP party affairs committee, **Kim Tak Su**, former member of the DRP party affairs committee, **So Sang Rin**, 10th national assembly member (DRP), **Li Yong Bok**, **Ro Sung Hwan**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Choe Hyong U**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Ko Jae Chong**, former spokesman of the NDP, **Chong Un Gap**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Ko Hung Mun**, former national assembly vice-speaker, **Pak Il**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Pak Yong Man**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Li Ryong Hui**, former minister of the NUB, **Kim Dong Yong**, former member of the NDP political committee, **Li Pil Son**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Cho Yon Ha**, **Song Won Yong**, former floor leader of the NDP, **Kim Un Ha**, 10th national assembly member (NDP), **Hong Yong Gi**, **Byang Dok In Ryu Gap Jong**, **Ryang Taek Yong**, **Chong Dong Hun**, **Kim Chung Sop**, **Chang So Hwan**, **Kim Hyon Su**, **So Un Sik**, **Pak In Mok**, **Sim Yong**

(Continued on page 8)

Canadian Parliament, European Leaders, U.S. Solons Demand Kim Freedom

The death sentence upheld by Seoul's high court martial drew outcries from all concerned about Kim's life and from the proponents of human rights all over the world.

South Korean democratic leader Kim Dae Jung is now in danger of being executed by hanging.

Seoul's military appellate court Nov. 3 upheld the death sentence given to the most dynamic dissident leader, who was convicted on sedition charges at an army court-martial in September.

Though Kim, 56 years old, appealed his military tribunal death verdict to the supreme court on Nov. 7 it is believed unlikely to commute the death sentence.

Follows a roundup of public opinion demanding Kim's freedom, which is mounting world-wide:

The Canadian House of Commons Nov. 21 **unanimously** appealed to the south Korean "government" to show clemency to the condemned opposition leader and release him, AFP reported.

The Canadian parliamentarians who offered the motion said that the appeal possibilities for Mr. Kim were very limited and he could be executed soon.

The 15th Congress of the Socialist International which was held in Madrid attended by 34 socialist parties from 31 countries Nov. 16 closed by adopting a resolution demanding the retraction of the death sentence imposed on Mr. Kim.

The resolution said: "We express deep concern again over the recent developments in south Korea and pledge to support democratic forces there struggling for freedom and democracy. We demand strongly the south Korean authorities retract the death verdict passed on Mr. Kim Dae Jung."

European leaders will shortly appeal to the south Korean "government" not to carry out the death sentence against dissident leader Kim Dae Jung, Japan Socialist Party Asukata Ichio said on Nov. 22 quoting the Socialist International Chairman Willy Brandt, as saying, "within two weeks after the end of the congress, European leaders will make joint representations to the south Korean 'government' not to execute Mr. Kim Dae Jung."

A U.S. congressional panel approved a resolution Nov. 20 urging the south Korean military regime to commute the death sentence of Mr. Kim Dae Jung.

The resolution, adopted by the House Subcommittee on International Organizations, urged the Seoul "government" to fulfil stated commitments to the democratization of the country's political life and examine the justice system under which "Kim Dae Jung and other critics of the 'government' have been tried and convicted."

Genscher, Foreign Minister of West Germany, said at a meeting of foreign ministers of the European Community held in Luxemburg that heads of state of European countries should save the life of south Korean democratic Kim Dae Jung.

At the meeting he appealed to the foreign ministers of the European Community to take a joint initiative for it and stressed the need to take a measure against the south Korean "government."

A European meeting to rescue Kim Dae Jung was held in Paris on the evening of Nov. 7.

The meeting sponsored by the European branch of the Liaison Council of Oversea South Koreans to Rescue Kim Dae Jung elected **Daniel Mayer, former Minister of** Labour of the French Government who is president of the International League for the Rights of Man, its chairman.

Recalling that the signature campaign launched in Japan for rescuing Kim Dae Jung collected 1,000,000 signatures in a month, Daniel Mayer exposed the political and economic compact between the French Government and the south Korean military group and stressed the need to wage a movement against it.

Robert Charvin, Secretary of the International Committee of Jurists for Democracy and Human Rights in South Korea, in the Nov. 7 statement, said:

"As the course of the trials shows, the sentences on Kim Dae Jung and other defendants stripped bare the intention of the Chon Du Hwan group to remove all the opposition forces by every conceivable means and obliterate all democratic factors in south Korea."

He called upon the lawyers to send protests speedily to the south Korean "embassies" in their countries.

Members of the U.S. Quaker Committee staged a demonstration on Nov. 7 in front of the south Korean "consulate" in Honolulu.

The demonstrators carried the placards reading "South Korean Authorities, Release All the Political Prisoners!" "Set Free Kim Dae Jung!" and "U.S. Troops, Get Out of South Korea!"

They handed a letter of protest at the south Korean "consulate."

The mission of the African National Congress of South Africa in Egypt issued a statement on Nov. 7 in connection with the south Korean situation.

Noting that the Chon Du Hwan military junta, in defiance of strong protest and denunciation of the progressive people of the world, passed capital punishment and heavy penalties upon Kim Dae Jung and other democrats, is slaughtering people who call for social democracy and stepping up the new war provocation manoeuvres to strengthen the fascist ruling system, the statement strongly demanded the unconditional and immediate release of Kim Dae Jung and other democratic figures and students who were illegally arrested.

Georges Marchais, General Secretary of the French Communist Party, on Nov. 3 issued an appeal titled "Not A Minute Should Be Delayed", calling for rescuing south Korean democrat Kim Dae Jung.

The appeal said:

"The south Korean puppet fascist clique is going to commit another murderous act in defiance of world public opinion.

"The French public should lift up its voice and more strongly demand the French Government check this crime."

The Japan national meeting against Seoul's military appellate court's decision to upheld the death sentence of Kim Dae Jung was held at an open-air music theater of Hibiya in Tokyo. The meeting was sponsored by the Tokyo Liaison Office to Save Mr. Kim Dae Jung.

The 6,000 Japanese workers and citizens called for an end to economic aid to south Korea, retraction of the so-called "political settlements" of the Kim Dae Jung case.

They also urged the Japanese government to take a resolute action and demand that the junta spare Kim's life.

2,000 Yonsei Students Stage Anti-"Gov't." Protest Again

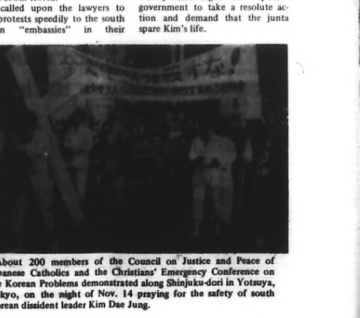
Over 2,000 students of Yonsei University, a prestigious private school in Seoul, again staged an anti-"government" demonstration on Nov. 18, disregarding Chon's warning that anti-"government" demonstrations would be severely dealt with.

According to AP and AFP, the demonstration began when some students scattered leaflets calling for the resignation of Chon Du Hwan, an end to martial law, the release of imprisoned dissidents and press freedom.

The students who picked up the leaflets calling for a struggle gathered at a place on the campus and held there a meeting condemning the treacherous acts of the Chon Du Hwan military group.

Hundreds of riot police stormed onto the campus to disperse anti-Chon demonstrators. At least 10 students were believed to have been taken into police custody, said university officials.

This was the second demonstration against the Chon "government" on the campus in nine days. More than 1,000 students of the university staged an anti-Chon demonstration on Oct. 30 in defiance of "emergency martial law".



About 200 members of the Council on Justice and Peace of Japanese Catholics and the Christians' Emergency Conference on the Korean Problems demonstrated along Shinjuku-dori in Yotsuya, Tokyo, on the night of Nov. 14 praying for the safety of south Korean dissident leader Kim Dae Jung.

Newly-Built Changgwang Street, Pyongyang

These Skyscrapers Working-Class Apt Houses

The Changgwang Street, another grand and beautiful modern residential quarter, has taken shape in Pyongyang.

The Changgwang Street built on its new design fitting its own style from the view point of Juche in all respects along the highway running straight from the Potong Gate on the bank of the scenic Potong River to Pyongyang Railway Station is a shining example of the construction of modern urban residential quarters and a proud creation of the people.

The whole picture of the Changgwang Street looks smart, graceful, bright and refreshing, while appearing grand and beautiful.

Twenty- or thirty- storied flats slender and tall are thickly clustered on both sides of the highway, occupying wide areas.

The flats in the street are painted in various colors going well together to accentuate the overall beauty of the street, all their large windows fitted in with single-sheet polished glass make the whole buildings appear refreshing and their night scene as bright as day.

Running in harmony with the Chollima Street, the Changgwang-Street adds to the grandeur of the former. And it goes well with such monumental edifices as the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium and the People's Palace of Culture to bring into relief the Chollima Street itself and, furthermore, has effected a new big change to the whole appearance of the capital.

The flats are furnished with all conditions for a convenient and cultured life. Each flat has three or four rooms with modern cultural and hygienic facilities and furniture of best quality.

These multi-storied flats are installed with high-speed and low-speed elevators and every flat has a color TV set, refrigerator, washing machine and sewing machine.

There are also adequate commercial and public service facilities and modern creches and kindergartens. The Changgwang Street is a model of wonderful residential quarters which is worthy of being proud of both in inside and outside view and it is a communist ideal street in which the people will live.

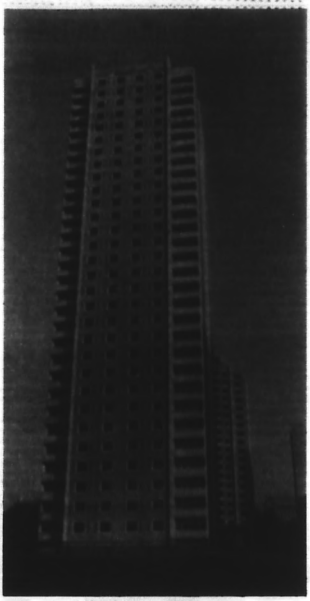
The builders have erected in less than one year this residential quarter 400,000 square meters in total floor space after removing the old Ryunhwanson Street without leaving a trace.

This is a result of the wise guidance of President Kim Il Sung and the deep care of the glorious Party Centre. The glorious Party, upholding the Juche-based architectural aesthetic idea of the great leader, initiated the construction of a new street of high-rise flats in Pyongyang under a far-reaching plan to bring about a new turn in city construction and indicated concrete ways to build it modernly to satisfy the desire of the people and their growing demand in life in modelling the whole society on the Juche idea.

The Party formed a powerful construction force and, with a tight hold on the planning of the street and its miniature and overall work of construction, solved all problems arising in the projects one by one.

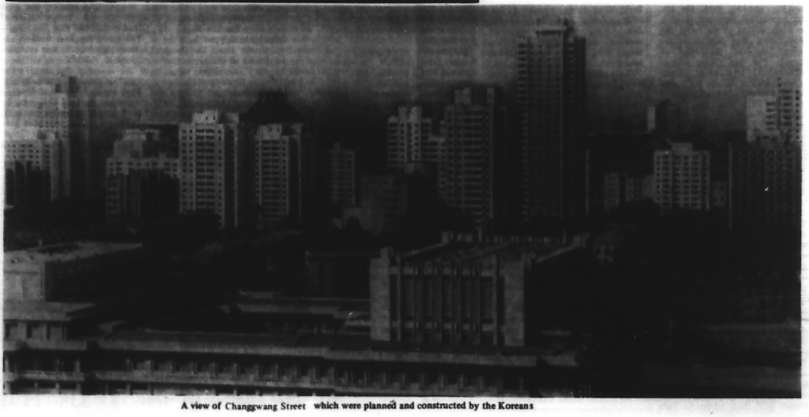
As a result, the Changgwang Street which would have taken three or four years at least could be built in so short a period as a shining creation of the era of the Workers' Party which provides the starting point of a new revolutionary turn in the architectural domain, completely shattering the established practice and old formality.

By constructing in a brief period the Changgwang Street communistic and modern in content and style, under the loving care of the great leader and the glorious Party, the builders once again demonstrated the great might of the speed campaign and set a fine pattern for more powerfully pushing ahead with the urban housing construction in the 1980's.



A 30-storied apartment house

The Potong-gang Bridge commands a view of Changgwang Street lined with high-rise flats



A view of Changgwang Street which were planned and constructed by the Koreans

Above
A view of Changgwang Street from a 30-storied apartment house
Right
A towering apartment house located on the side of the Potong Gate

Below
Changgang Street at night

Left
Bedroom

Below right
Kitchen

S. Korean Fishermen Interviewed

The crewmen of the south Korean fishing boats "Haewang No. 6" and "Haewang No. 7" which were held by a navy patrol boat of the Korean People's Army after illegally, intruding into the coastal waters of the DPRK on Jan. 26 were interviewed by reporters on Nov. 7. At the press conference they unanimously said that in the north they deeply felt how fine the policy of the great General Kim Il Sung is.

Present at the press conference held under the sponsorship of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland were reporters of Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK), the Korean Central News Agency, the Central Radio and Television Broadcasting Committee of the DPRK and other central and local press organs.

According to chief skipper Chi Yong, "Haewang No. 6" and "Haewang No. 7" are seine boats belonging to the "Kyongin Fisheries Company" in Inchon, Kyonggi Province, both of which are of 88.47-ton class. The crewmen of the two boats total 24.

Speaking of the course of their intrusion, the chief skipper said that they illegally intruded into the territorial waters of the north while fishing in the west sea on Jan. 26, that they received a signal to stop from a naval patrol boat of the Korean People's Army, but fled south, failing to comply with it, defying the warning shots, afraid that they should surely be killed, if apprehended, and that they stopped only after they were fired, and that they were wholly responsible for such tragedy as the death of the skipper of "Haewang No. 7."

He said as they illegally intruded into the territorial waters of the north and attempted to flee, not responding to the repeated signal, they should have been subjected to legal sanctions, but the Government of the Republic leniently pardoned them and accorded them warm hospitality which they did not deserve.

The crewmen said that they had lived a hard life in corrupt and ailing south Korea, not being treated as human beings and that after coming to the northern half of the Republic, they were spending happy days, enjoying treatment worth humanity for the first time in their life.

Crewman Choe Sok Hyon said that he was driven out of an ironworks long ago with his hand wounded, but it was not until he was embraced in the bosom of the great General that he had it cured. He said brothers in the north cut their own tendons and transplanted them into his hand.

Crewman Cho Gyu Ho said that he had been suffering from a serious intestinal disease coupled with stomach trouble and colitis and when he was coming to the north, his illness had taken a turn for the worse.

He said that doctors in the north put him in a hospital, but he was too weak physically to undergo an operation. But they carried out a big operation on him, saying how they could remain onlookers when a compatriot from the south embraced in the bosom of the great leader was dying. After the operation doctors and nurses did not leave his bed for three days, he stated.

Chief engineer Hwang Sok Go said that he had been illiterate till his age of fifty, but in the north he learned letters and could now write his name and letters and read newspapers.

Crewman Kim Jong Hun said that he had not celebrated his birthday even once till his age of 52. In the northern half of the Republic he sat at a table of birthday feast for the first time in his life.

He said: Entering the dining room one evening, I found a table of feast. An official led me there and said it was my birthday and the respected and beloved leader saw to it that I was feted. At first I wondered it was true.

There is no one like our General in the world.

At the press conference, the crewmen gave impressions of various places of the northern half of the Republic they had toured during their stay here.

Saying they envied above all the fishermen of the north, their happy life, the crewmen noted that they were living with nothing more to desire in fine flats and do fishing in safety by well-equipped means.

They said that in the northern half of the Republic everyone undergoes free compulsory education and doctors visit sick persons and treat them free of charge, and farming is done by machines.

They said they could see the policy for the working people pursued in the north from the fact that there is no pollution here. Here in the north, they said, we keenly felt how fine the policy of the great General Kim Il Sung is.

Referring to the question of national reunification, the crewmen stressed that the great leader General Kim Il Sung in his report to the Sixth Congress of the Worker's Party of Korea put forward a national reunification program for reunifying the divided country in the shortest possible time.

They said that the proposal for founding a confederal state of independence, neutrality and peace, leaving the two systems of the north and the south as they are, and the ten-point policy of the confederal government which the great General put forward are most reasonable and justifiable. They added that they would bend all efforts to accomplish the cause of national reunification along this road.

At the press conference, the crewmen sang in chorus a song sung by the brothers and sisters in the south with desire for national reunification and the song "Korea Is One."

Wholeheartedly wishing the great leader good health and a long life, all the crewmen present at the press conference loudly shouted "Long live General Kim Il Sung, the sun of the nation."

S. Korean Economy: Worst Recession in Two Decades

South Korea's economy is in its worst recession in more than two decades. Many analysts say that no countermeasures would be now sufficient to save it. Therefore, the Chon Du Hwan junta, unlike the slain strongman's regime, can no longer hope to gain public support by the so-called "economic miracle" claim.

Here are some figures which clearly indicate what the flounder-ing economy will bring about: The first and second quarters of this year chalked up a negative growth rate for the first time since 1974, (–1.8 percent and –6.3 percent, respectively); the total foreign debts will reach about over $30 billion by the end of this year; wholesale prices are forecasted increasing by between 40–43 percent this year, compared with a 35–39 percent raise predicted in June; business indicator in September registered 0.4; major business groups including the Whasin Group, one of south Korea's oldest companies, are encountering serious financial difficulties and are on the verge of financial collapse; and about 2 million tons of rice will have to be imported from foreign countries next year because of an acute shortage of foodstuff. These developments will be a heavy drag on the Chon Du Hwan's regime.

On this, a south Korean economic journalist said:

"Definitely, our country's economy is on the verge of total collapse. No political or social stability can be expected if the economy collapses. In addition, our country will loose resilience to recover her economy." (The Nov. 8 issue of daily Seoul Kyongje Sinmun)

Under these circumstances, the south Korean economy is being hard hit by the three factors– recession, sky-rocketing prices, and aggravating international balance of payments.

The seriousness of the recession is clearly seen in a couple of economic indicators made public by the junta.

The business indicators for September announced by the Bank of Korea on November 4 showed 0.4 which indicate a state of serious recession, an economic crisis.

Business indicators are usually published after the economic authorities analysed indicators of various sectors, including the credit situation, production, investment, consumption (spending), and export and import. It is said that the figure directly indicates a country's economic health: over 2 means good business activity; 1.5 –2, a business upturn; 1.0–1.5, bad business; and below 1, serious depression or a state of economic crisis.

The business indicators fell below 1.0 from the second half of last year and hovered around 0.6–0.7 in the first four months of this year. From the beginning of May this year, it continued on 0.4, indicating a state of prolonged long-term economic crisis.

Even the GNP growth which used to be widely publicized as a major symbol of south Korea's "economic miracle" has continued to record a negative growth since the beginning of this year.

The first quarter of this year recorded a negative growth rate of 1.8 percent below the year-ago-level and the second quarter also showed a 6.3 percent negative growth rate from the comparable period of last year. (The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, Nov. 9) In addition, on November 17 the Bank of Korea announced that south Korea's GNP during the third quarter of this year fell 0.8 percent from the comparable period last year to bring the GNP growth during the first nine months of the year to minus 3.1 percent. In view of this continued negative GNP growth, the junta disclosed its intention to introduce vast economic support from the U.S. when the director of the Korea International Economic Institute told newsmen on November 12 that south Korea hoped to restore a 5 or 6 percent economic growth next year with help from the U.S. under President Ronald Reagan.

The views taken by economic experts on business activity run counter to government forecasts. Business leaders take the view that business is slower now than it was last year, while the governmental economic leaders hold that the nation's economic activity is recovering little by little, as compared with the beginning of this year. (The June issue of the monthly magazine Sin Dong-A)

Bankrupt Major Business Groups

The above-mentioned serious stagflation will naturally cause bankruptcies among not only minor enterprises but also major business groups.

The Whasin Group, which is built around Whasin Industrial Co., is the first major business group to encounter serious financial difficultires since the Chon Du Hwan junta said it would stop bailing out any companies on thin ice. The junta position worries business executives and bankers because many other south Korean business groups are also financially weak. Following the Whasin Group case, major *zaibotsi* (zaibatsu) including the Samsung Group, which was established 40 years ago, and the Gold Star Co., one of the leading electrical-appliance manufacturers, are on the verge of financial collapse, may have to sell off some assets to pay their debts. (The Japanese economic daily Nihon Keizai Shimbun, Nov. 8)

Due to long-protracted stagnation, enterprises should make snowballing debt-servicing. In the case of a major business group, they must pay an annual 30–35 percent interest, while the business groups in the heavy chemical industry section must pay over 100 million won per day. (One U.S. dollar is approximately 656 won)

The high interest rate policy has failed to achieve its desired effect. The official rate is 25.5 percent while the prime rate is 20 percent, and both were lowered by 1 percentage point, respectively in June. But this abnormal high interest rate continues yet. Sin Bong Sik, a managing director of the "Federation of Korean Industries" said: "The real interest rate is higher than the official rate. The traditional banking practice of paying interest three months in advance is still maintained in south Korea.

Therefore, real interest rate will increase about 5 percent over the original rate. In the case of debentures, calculated at compound interest, the interest rate will be increased from the present 28 percent to 39 percent. In order to recover the high interest rate, there is alternative but to increase the prices of products." (The Japanese monthly Keizaikai, the October issue) As Sin stressed, interest rates are left to follow their upward curve.

The recession has depressed sales, but the junta has forbidden companies to lay off workers because it fears higher unemployment may increase political instability such as was caused by the riotous demonstration of the coal miners of Sabuk City, Kangwon Province in April this year. Contrary to the junta's intention, the prolonged depression will naturally result in curtailing the operations of factories, and in aggravating unemployment. It is said that the actual number of the unemployed will be 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 by the end of this year. (The Nov. 5 issue of the daily Hanguk Ilbo)

The discontent of workers is clearly reflected in the growing number of labor disputes in which they demand pay hikes, payment of back wages, and illegal dismissals. According to statistics released on November 1 by the Office of Labor Affairs, a total of 1,870 labor disputes, 358 over the comparable period of last year, occurred as of October 25 this year. (The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, Nov. 2)

Skyrocketing Prices

The skyrocketing prices of main daily necessities which threaten the livelihoods of the people afford another unmistakable symptom of economic bankruptcy.

The south Korean "Ministry of Energy and Resources" Nov. 20 announced the junta raised the retail prices of petroleum products by an average 11 percent and electricity prices 16 percent. This year, south Korean domestic oil prices have soared by 109 percent: as they were revised upward by 59.4 percent on January 29, by 14.17 percent on August 24 and by 12.5 percent this time on an ex-factory basis. This year south Korea also saw electricity rates shoot up by 58.9 percent. The electricity rates went up by an average of 35.9 percent on Feb. 1. (The November 19 issue of the Korea Times) Following the price increase of oil products and electricity rates, wholesale prices were up 37 percent as of the end of October from a year earlier. Consumer prices were up 31 percent from October 1979. Earlier this year the south Korean junta forecast an inflation rate of around 20 percent for 1980, but it revised its forecast after the January won devaluation and again in June. There is no way for consumers and industry to protect themselves from the brutal ill and other wholesale price offensive.

The repeated oil price hikes are largely attributed to the rapid devaluation of the won which immediately affects the prices of imported oil. The won was devalued 16.6 percent last January, and has been losing its value ever since in a junta-controlled float. On November 20, the exchange rate was posted at 656.7 won to the U.S. dollar, compared with 484 won per dollar before the January devaluation. It is needless to elaborate on the fact that the increased oil prices and electricity charges will affect the price structure in the south Korean economy as a whole, not to mention the prices of commodities whose raw material is oil, along with the immediate impact upon the industrial segments closely related to the consumption of oil and electricity in varing degrees.

It is totally difficult for the Chon junta to cover its international balance of payment deficits. Economic data submitted on November 11 by the "Ministry of Finance" to the "Legislative Council for National Security" indicated that a total trade deficit will amount to about $5 billion and the total foreign debts will reach over $30 billion. According to the data, due to the increased introduction of foreign economic aid, the total balance of foreign debts will amount to over $30 billion, including $17.2 billion medium-term loans. The south Korean junta which is concerned over the repayment of foreign loans, drew more credit financing from foreign countries through short-term loans with a repayment period of less than one year. A total of $16–17 billion is required be used for repayment of debts and interest payments as well as for the purpose of covering international balance of payment deficits. (The November 8 issue of Seoul Kyongje Sinmun)

Acute Shortage of Foodstuff

The Chon junta is also faced with a serious food crisis. The Nov. 7 issue of the Japanese daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported that the junta recently requested the Tokyo Government to export to south Korea, 1,000,000 tons of rice, and that it has already signed a contract with Australia on the import of 10,000 tons of rice to fill the grain gap. An estimated grain output this year is not yet disclosed by the junta, but an unidentified source said that it will be 4,300,000 tons, 40 percent below the initial target. If a total amount of next year's grain output is estimated at 5,000,000, the same as this year's rice shortage of 1,400,000 tons is estimated. In various cities and rural areas as well as in big cities such as Seoul and Pusan, rice riots are reported occurring, with the intervention of the police authorities, as rich people are hoarding rice as dealers refuse to sell rice.

In spite of this grave economic crisis, the Chon Du Hwan junta has so far taken no effective or timely measures. The junta is severely criticised for this by the south Korean economic circles as well as by social or political circles.

In an interview with the chief news analyst of Japan's NHK broadcasting company, Chon Du Hwan said he has no expert knowledge of economics and that is why he is seriously learning economics from economists in order to grasp the real economic situation.

Faced with economic deterioration, the Ministry of Finance announced on November 8 "comprehensive countermeasures" called an "economic revitalization package for the financial and monetary sector and that south Korean bank interest rates have been lowered by an average of 2.5 percentage points (for deposts) and 2.0 percentage points (for lendings). At the same time, it also announced that the junta has decided to reduce special excises on some major electronic items by 30 percent, while advancing an additional 30,000 million–350,000 million won in business financing support.

As for the so-called "new comprehensive measures", a financial company executive said, "there is no doubt they will stimulate consumption to some extent, but they aren't big enough and they are too late." The Seoul stock exchange gained strongly when the first measures were announced, but dumped after the overall picture became clear. (The Nov. 13 issue of the Asian Wall Street Journal)

This was the third step taken by the junta this year under the pretext of "combating the deepening recession" which has continued for more than a year. The junta, at the beginning of this year, stressing that it would make utmost efforts to restore "economic stability," increased interest rates 6 percent by applying an economic countermeasure made public on January 12. But this failed to produced the intended effect. Therefore, the junta, after it announced another "comprehensive countermeasure" on June 5, lowered interest rates by an average of 2 percentage points three times.

As the price stabilization policy, according to the Jan. 12 measure, ended in a failure, the junta announced the June 5 measure and has been making utmost efforts to adjust business disruptions. However, these measures are "effective measures" merely on surface. They have served to further aggravate economic bankruptcy.

(Continued on page 5)

Gasoline (premium)	880
Gasoline (regular)	680
Kerosene	226
Diesel	215

THE KOREA HERALD

November 19

Petroleum Products	Before	Now	Increase Rate (%)
Gasoline (premium)	730.25	820.80	27.24
Gasoline (regular)	569.84	640.34	27.24
Kerosene	180.31	202.96	12.56
Diesel	172.21	193.84	12.56
Light Residual Fuel Oil	160.82	181.02	12.56
Bunker A Oil	155.31	174.81	12.56
Bunker C Oil	151.22	169.49	12.07
Jet Oil	211.55	238.13	12.56
Naphtha	153.32	164.88	17.54
Solvents	460.22	518.02	12.56
Asphalt	163.31	183.82	12.56
Propane Gas (won/kg)	532.71	592.22	11.10
Propane Gas (for city)	298.42	331.54	11.10
Butane Gas (won/kg)	514.58	584.86	13.71
Butane Gas (for city)	322.32	366.51	13.71
Average			12.68

Chon's Interviews with Foreign Reporters:

Image-Building with Facts Upside Down

BY CHAE JUN

Seoul's military strongman Chon Du Hwan recently had press interviews with reporters of Japan's state-run TV system NHK and the U.S.'s leading political and economic paper The Wall Street Journal. The meetings were the first encounters with the foreign reporters after he seized the reins of presidential power in a Pak style.

The press interviews, coming on the heels of the phased coups, the massacre in Kwangju and a draconic crackdown on a series of anti-"government" demonstrations, attracted considerable public attention. As expected, however, his remarks represented a gross distortion of the state of south Korea. a bid to cover up his criminal acts and rationalize his dictatorial rule.

Predicting that the death sentence on Kim Dae Jung. the democratic Opposition leader, the dictator alleged, "Clearly. observers from overseas do not know all the facts," and claimed that he was responsible for many manslaughters in Kwangju.

Kim's behavior "can be compared to a military attempt at a coup detat," Chon added, and was shameless enough to argue, "The president of the Republic of Korea doesn't have the power to intervene (with the judicial process of Kim)," a strong evidence of the dictator's determination to hang the Opposition leader by all means.

It is a matter of common knowledge that Kim steadfastly strived to bring about democratic order in south Korea and fought with dictatorship--a fact the world community and even the U.S. authorities admit. In this country broader segments of the people are now active in the campaign to win his freedom. They regard the drive as part of the efforts to put an end to the questionable relations between their government and the south Korean authorities and held preserve democracy in south Korea.

An allegation by Chon that only Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) and Hamtongyo (the National Congress for Democracy and Unification of Korea) are conducting the save-Kim campaign is entirely groundless. It is an open defiance to the public. The aim of his charge is to suggest that Kim is a pinko.

He was mocking the world when he alleged that Kim "caused the deaths of innocent people in Kwangju" in an attempt to impute the responsibility falsely to the democratic leader. The world community knows and the south Korean people know that Chon is the mastermind in the Kwangju Massacre. There is no way to hide this stark fact.

Chon replied to a question that the south Korean economy would recover in the latter half of next year, though it is now in convulsion. How do things stand?

"The economy has reached the critical point, its chaos being compared to the depression in the 1930s," the Seoul Kyongje (Economic) Sinmun wrote on November 9. It is unanimous agreement among south Koreans and foreign experts that the present economic woes, resulting from the so-called high-growth policy of the late strongman. defy any remedy and remain hopeless.

On November 10, the south Korean authorities said real economic growth for this year would be down 4-5 percent from last year, but experts predict the decline would be between 9 and 10 percent. In industrial fields, the average rate of operation is around 50 percent, with many leading companies facing bankruptcy. The jobless people are now numbering over one million.

Inflation is impoverishing the people further. The wholesale prices are anticipated to rise by 40-43 percent by the end of this year. Rice harvest, showing a decrease of 40 percent due to the cold-weather damage, is compounding the food shortage which two million tons of rice must be imported to make up for.

This year, the foreign debts, including $5 billion trade deficits, total $30 billion, of which $16-17 billion come up for repayment next year, an omen that the south Korean economy, passing the critical point, will soon face collapse.

Then, why did Chon predict recovery would come next year? He wanted to appease the fears of the population, mislead the public, dodge the crisis with dosages of foreign capital and maintain his dictatorship. Chon already relaxed conditions for foreign capital investment in south Korea and expressed welcome for a special investment of $10 billion.

A fact of life, however, is that much of foreign capital invested in south Korea under the high-growth policy of Pak Jung Hi is today fleeing in face of serious economic dislocations. What he said is rather a proof of the economic troubles.

Chon, trying to divert elsewhere the resistance of the people, is spreading allegations about the "threat from the north" and sharpening military tensions on the Korean Peninsula. These acts are partly to justify the repression of the democratic forces and partly to draw the attention of the U.S. and Japan.

The aim is clearly to attach semblance of legality to his illegal grab of power when he refers to "Korean-style democracy," "democratic welfare state" and "social purification campaign." He tries to win public sympathy with these slogans and then justify the "national referendum" which approved the new "Constitution" of "yusin" type.

All these maneuverings are militating against him. The latest series of student protests offer unmistakable evidence of the public disapproval of Chon's regime, and no remedy is available for him to survive the deteriorating economic ills. Barrel never helps the economy.

What is the aim in meeting with foreign correspondents after many months of silence? It is an attempt to break through international isolation, improve his image through appearances in foreign mass media and court foreign capital. It is also true that he is seeking a way out in building relations with the incoming Reagan Administration and the Japanese militarist forces who are voicing support to the military dictatorship in south Korea. Yet, they are in no position to bale him out of the crisis and bring back democracy to south Korea. There is little they can for the economic recovery of south Korea.

Recently, the Workers' Party of Korea held its 6th Congress which proposed to form a reunified government under the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo. The confederation proposal is being received by the south Korean people and Korean overseas and the world public with unanimous approval and sympathy.

The new proposal is to create a unified national government, while respecting the presence of two differing systems and ideas in north and south Korea, under a confederation, which will pursue the policy of neutrality and non-alignment. No doubt, this policy offer is the most realistic and reasonable solution of the Korean question.

The creation of such a confederal state in Korea would be in the interests of the United States and neighboring states. The United States should refrain from any acts obstructing the realization of the confederation proposal and stop supporting the Chon junta.

Asian Wall Street Journal:

Follows a gist of the article run in the October 22 issue of the Asian Wall Street Journal:

Mike Chinoy, a Hong Kong-based re porter for NBC News, recently completed a month-long assignment in South Korea.

U.S. Negative Posture; Anti-Americanism

The death sentence ordered a month ago for former presidential candidate Kim Dae Jung is merely the most visible manifestation of a nationwide wave of repression harsh even by the authoritarian standards of South Korea.

While international attention has focused primarily on the sedition case against the 54-year-old opposition leader, hundreds of other Korean dissidents have also been facing military trials at the hands of President Chun Doo-Hwan's martial law regime.

Thousands more, deemed by the government to be politically or socially unreliable, have been forced from their jobs, expelled from their schools or detained as "hooligans" and sent to re-education camps.

The most significant and potentially most explosive of the trials which have followed the Kim verdict is taking place in Kwangju, the scene of a bloody anti-government insurrection last May. Hundreds of people were killed in the uprising when soldiers clashed with demonstrators demanding an end to martial law and the restoration of democracy.

Since then, there has been an uneasy calm in the city, due in large part to the continued presence of armed soldiers on the streets, military checkpoints, a greatly expanded network of police informers and a continuing round-up of dissidents.

But beneath the surface, Kwangju is bitter and tense. Posters hailing President Chun's recent inauguration were repeatedly defaced, and eventually had to be protected by armed guards. Copies of the government's just-published constitution have been torn from local billboards.

The atmosphere has been further inflamed by the current trial. Unlike the proceedings against Kim Dae Jung, which were open to diplomatic observers and local and foreign journalists, the Kwangju trial is being held in absolute secrecy before a five-man military tribunal at an army base just outside the city.

The only acknowledgement of it the authorities have made was a report published in two local newspapers on September 18 that the trial of 175 people accused of participating in the springtime protests was underway. The government gave no details and has suppressed all other domestic and foreign press reports.

Dissident sources say the 175 have been charged with offenses ranging from disturbing public order to sedition. The sources report that most of those facing lesser charges have already been convicted and given jail terms of up to 20 years.

Now, the trial has moved into its final phase, with the arraignment on sedition charges of 13 prominent local citizens described by the government as the ring-leaders of the uprising. They include Myong Ro Kuen, a distinguished professor of English at Kwangju's Chonnam National University, Oh Byong-Ho, a former dean of the university, the president and secretary-general of the Kwangju Young Men's Christian Association, two priests and several well-known lawyers and academics. All of them could face the death penalty.

The government's indictment claims the 13 maintained clandestine links with Kim Dae Jung and incited the population to revolt. The defendants have denied the charges, pointing out that they were members of a committee which tried to mediate between the protestors and the army last spring in the hope of avoiding further bloodshed.

Whatever the truth, those on trial have been denied lawyers of their choice and provided instead with government-appointed attorneys. Moreover, friends and relatives of the 13 claim they have been beaten and in some cases stripped naked and interrogated while in prison.

The trial in Kwangju is not the only sign of the regime's continuing campaign to eliminate its political opponents and consolidate its hold on power. In recent weeks, several hundred young dissidents have been secretly tried in Seoul for participating in protest rallies last spring. Appearing before military tribunals in groups of 40 or 50, the protestors have been given sentences ranging from probation to two or three years in jail.

At the same time, government-sponsored "purification committees" have been spearheading a political and cultural purge which has left no Korean institution untouched. Virtually every factory, shop, church, newspaper and office in the country has been required to establish such a committee.

With close links to the Korean Central Intelligence Agency and military intelligence, the committees have been charged with the job of rooting out all "impure elements." The definition of "impurity" has been left up to the authorities, which has ensured that most of those targeted for purification have been critics of the government.

Creation of the committees has made many Koreans fearful of speaking openly about politics not only in public places but even in their own homes. Said one long-time foreign resident of Seoul, "I've never seen people so scared, not even during the most repressive days of the late President Park Chung Hee."

Even as it has been clamping down on its opponents with an approach one diplomat described as "playing hardball below the belt," President Chun's military-dominated regime has moved to

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According to the October 18 issue of Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, 15 economic experts including two economic government officials agreed: The January 12 measure was a product of trial and error on the part of the "government"; the June 5 "comprehensive economic countermeasure on economic revitalization" had no effect on the stagnant economy; and the September 16 measure for "economic revitalization" has failed to produce the desired effect even one month has passed since its enforcement.

The only way for the Chon junta to tide over the unprecedented economic crisis and to improve the growing trade deficits and repayments of debts, plus interest payments is to draw vast economic assistance from the Tokyo and Washington governments.

Following a 126-man Japanese buying mission's visit to south Korea in July, a 20-man high-powered Japanese buisness mission headed by Inayama Yoshio, President of Keidanren (Japan Federation of Economic Organizations) flew into Seoul on November 19 and agreed to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation. Reportedly, the mission reconfirmed business negotiations on the purchase of $1,090 million worth goods and service from south Korea which was concluded between the former economic mission and the south Korean delegation.

At the meeting, the south Korean side noted particularly that the incoming Reagan administration of the U.S. would come up with new economic measures which might well affect significantly the south Korean economy. However the vast economic assistance will have hardly any effect on with the fate of dissident leader Kim Dae Jung.

Japanese Monthly "Sekai"

Letters from So Brothers (1)

Letters of the So brothers, Japan-born young Korean political prisoners, were released by their youngest brother So Kyong Shik for publication in the December issue of the Japanese quality monthly "Sekai."

The So brothers (So Sung, 34, So Chun Shik, 31) were arrested in 1971 by the "KCIA" for the alleged involvement in the "campus spying case." They were branded as "spies of the north" who wirepulled the "movement to check the third-term presidential election."

They were arrested on charges of violating the "National Security Law" and the "Anti-Communist Law." During the investigation, they were tortured and So Sung had his face burned.

So Sung was sentenced to life imprisonment in the second trial on Dec. 7, 1971 and So Chun Shik 7-year imprisonment in February, 1972. After the expiration of his prison term he was detained again under the "Public Security Law" proclaimed in July, 1975, a law aimed at rearresting for "national security reasons" the released dissidents who are not obedient to the authorities.

So Sung was a student of the postgraduate course of the liberal arts and science college of Seoul University, and So Chun Shik, student of the law college of the same university.

Their mother O Ki Sun, 59 years old resident of Kyoto Japan, died on May 20 this year because of cancer of the womb. She plied between Japan and south Korea to visit the prisons where her sons are detained in the past 9 years since their arrest.

Introduced here are parts of their letters in the past two and a half years. These letters were written under censorship.

April is drawing near. Clear warblings of larks seem to be heard from green cornfields and yellow rape blossoms field. Have cherry blossoms begun to bloom on the hill at the back of my home?

I think about a noisy yet popular scene of cherry blossom viewing at Mt. Arashiyama and a quiet narrow path through a bamboo thicket. I feel as if I were reaching the gate of my home, when you said: "When I am at home, I have a feeling that you will come back, saying in a usual loud voice, 'Hullo, here I am'". Yes, when I attended a school, boarding alone, separated from my family, I didn't write many letters because of my innate idleness. I used to return to my home like a wind without advance warning, saying, "Mother, here I am."....

Ten years seem to be a day for me. I felt happiness in being with you. Your noble sincerity made me comfortable. Whenever I think of tens of thousands of miles you travelled in rain or in sunshine, summer or winter, I am beside myself and all tears for joy at your affection which can't be bartered for anything. Yet a worry about your age and health dominates my mind. No word from you for a long time, my anxiety grows. Yet there is nothing I could do for you.... I wish you would be in good health. **(Mar. 17, 1980)**

I heard you are in a hospital. How do things stand now? I believe the day I will be able to meet you again is sure to come, after you have recovered.

I know that your life is that of hardships. When I think of you lying ill in bed, my thinking flies back to the bygone old days.

You got married young and worked hard. During the WWII, you did all things you could to dodge our father's drafting. The way you have done housekeeping jobs since the liberation deserves my respect.

Our home was always full of love and heartwarming, though it sometimes noisy and disorderly because of us mischievous kids....

Everyday was torment. Racial discrimination and humiliation in the Japanese society. Dissoluteness of children who didn't know the mind of parents.... You have really lived a bitter life. Your perseverance and bravery gave us hope and courage.

When I was in hospital, you came and said "I began to learn swimming and crawling." I was very impressed beyond description.

While I was in jail, you, kind and faithful to us, have visited us in prison.

Mummy, you have lived in the time of hardships in the history of our nation. You struggled, squirmed and suffered. All those have combined to strike you down in bed are the sufferings and grudge. I can't repress the sense of sin. I know very well that your hands and love are throughout all my limbs. There is a saying "The mind rules the body." Even if I am left alone, I will live to the last. Please be relaxed and take good care of yourself. I wish you will get well again as early as possible.

And then, please wait for the day when we can meet again, say goodbye to! all our hardships we have suffered for a long time and laugh our fill in a spring day, full of sunshine under blooming cherry blossoms. **(Apr. 19, 1980)**

Mummy, I am writing my last letter to you. A severe wind is blowing in my body. My heart is filled with grief. Countless figures of yours appear before my eyes, overlapping with each other.

Mummy, why did you die?.... Yong Sil (younger sister of the So brothers) said "Mother can't come here again, but she will be always with you from now on."

Mummy, can you always be with me? I remember my pleasant childhood. We went to the field for picking flowers... To a zoo and went swimming. A happy home supper, and your fine art of cooking....

O Ki Sun, mother of So brothers

I recall how I spent with you. The recollections are sweet and warm.

I remember your warm and tender hands. Your limpid eyes sparkling as the years went by. You sometimes couldn't hide loneliness. Your naive smile.... Sometimes you shed tears ceaselessly. You walked mincing with a stoop. Your pathetic lamentation ringing in my ears deeply.

I can remember my numerous disobedjences, failures and sins repeated from my childhood. My heart almost breaks, whenever I think of the scenes of our meeting with you for the last ten years.

Our last meeting took place on Nov. 15 last year. In the biting cold of 10 degrees below zero, you went back without betraying your pain.

Just after the time, you had gone for eternal separation.... I had no idea of your death. I was really stupid. I just wept aloud.

Ten years ago, when I fell enveloped with flame, under the high and blue skies. It was strange calmness with which I parted with all the pains in the world. In hallucination, I seemed to be sucked into the sky, I repeatedly said to myself "Mummy, I'm sorry. Mummy, please forgive me." Mummy, you always forgave and protected me. Mummy, you were my staff, serenity and life. Mummy is precious for everyone. However, my mummy is the most splendid and greatest. You are the mummy whom I am most proud of.

Yong Sil said "Our mummy will be born again, meet with us again and be able to live together again." I would really like to live with you at our home in Arashiyama (Kyoto Prefecture). And then, I would be able to show my gratitude.

Where should I turn for comfort? You already passed away. What shall I do? Shall I cry at the top of my voice "Omoni (mummy)!" like a stray child in the desolate plain where the sun is setting.

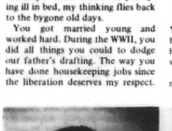
Shall I call on you in Hades thousands of mile far. Though I can meet you in the dream, you evaporate soon like the morning dew.

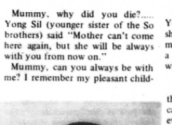
I wept, tired and fell in sleep. When I wake up, I feel a new pain like a crown of thorns on my head. What you hoped was to live together with us.

Now I am keeping in mind your words "Be sound in your mind and body," "Every people should live by his own strength." I should have made you free from cares.

Mummy, you are living with us as our fresh and blood. **(May 29, 1980)**

From So Jung





So brothers: So Chun Shik (left) and So Sung (right) before they were arrested.

(Continued from page 5)

"civilianize" itself and gain greater political legitimacy.

At the core of this effort has been the publication of a new constitution to replace the "Yushin" or "Revitalizing" constitution of the assassinated President Park.

Government officials claim the new document, which is being put to a nationwide referendum this week, is much more liberal than Park's. As evidence, they point to clauses which limit the president to a single seven-year term, restrict the president's authority to assume emergency powers, increase the influence of the National Assembly and provide for firmer constitutional guarantees of civil rights.

But the new constitution contains "supplementary articles" which raise serious questions as to just how democratic it will be. The articles order the dissolution of all existing political parties and the National Assembly as soon as the constitution takes effect. This will be immediately after the referendum.

In place of the legislature, a "Special Committee on National Security Measures" is to govern South Korea until a presidential election, to be held before next June 1. The Special Committee is heavily dominated by the military. In addition to President Chun, its members include the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the heads of the army, navy and air force, the director of the KCIA, the country's martial law commander plus the Prime Minister and several cabinet ministers.

According to the articles, the Special Committee, in its role as temporary replacement for the National Assembly, will have the power to ban from political life people who in the past were allegedly responsible for corruption or "social unrest." At the same time, it will determine the framework for whatever new political parties are allowed to contest next year's election.

Korean officials have promised that these powers will not be used in a "vengeful manner." But many Koreans remain convinced the legislation is designed to remove anti-government figures from the country's political life. They point to the forced retirement of a number of top politicians this summer on similar vaguely worded charges as a chilling sign of possible future developments.

While all this has been taking place, the United States, which has 40,000 troops stationed in South Korea and is the country's closest ally and chief trading partner, has stood uncomfortably on the sidelines. The ferocity and scope of the crackdown has clearly distressed policy-makers in Washington and at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul. But, to the dismay of many thoughtful Koreans and a growing number of Americans living and working in Korea, the Carter administration has been unwilling to exert any meaningful pressure on President Chun to moderate his repressive policies.

The reason for this is clear. Even before the Kim Dae Jung verdict, President Carter stated publicly that the U.S. would not use its security commitment to South Korea, or its close economic ties, to put pressure on the Chun regime.

The State Department's official reaction to the death sentence against Kim, for example, was exceptionally weak. A one paragraph statement expressing American "concern" contrasted sharply with strongly worded remarks from the West German Foreign Minister, Amnesty International and many others.

Since then, the U.S. Embassy has taken an extremely low profile, with Embassy officials arguing that further public criticism of Chun would only be counter-productive and damaging to relations between Washington and Seoul. Meanwhile, a report on the Kim trial prepared by a State Department lawyer sent to Seoul to observe the proceedings has not yet been made public, even though an Embassy spokesman assured reporters it would be released within a matter of days after the trial's conclusion.

Washington has further undercut its own expressions of concern over the repression in South Korea with a series of moves that have been widely interpreted here as gestures of support for the Chun regime, even if they were not deliberately intended to convey such an impression.

For example, on the day of the verdict against Kim, Chase Manhattan Bank Chairman David Rockefeller called on President Chun and praised South Korea's economic climate. The following day, U.S. Ambassador William Gleysteen met with Foreign Minister Lho Shin-yong. Although Embassy officials were at pains to describe both meetings as courtesy calls, the regime took advantage of the inopportune timing to portray them as, American endorsement of President Chun.

Then, just a few days ago, the Pentagon announced plans to send 48 sophisticated new F-16 jet fighters to South Korea in mid-1981 to replace an equal number of aging F-4 Phantoms. In Korean eyes, the move was yet another sign of the Carter administration's pro-Chun sympathies.

In the short term, this approach may succeed in avoiding a crisis in U.S.-Korean relations, which strong American criticism of the Chun regime might set off. But, quite apart from its implications for the administration's human rights policies, the American position is tied to what is for South Korea an unprecedented development – stirrings of anti-American sentiment among a strongly anti-communist and deeply pro-Western population.

Not surprisingly, the feeling has been strongest in Kwangju, where many people continue to believe – incorrectly – that the U.S. sanctioned the bloody army attack which crushed last spring's uprising. Threats have been telephoned to the American Cultural Center in the city, and some Koreans working there have quit in protest.

But American residents in Seoul say the feeling exists in the capital as well. And if the U.S. maintains its subdued response to the draconian policies of the South Korean government and continues to be perceived by politically conscious Koreans as a supporter of President Chun, it is likely that such sentiments will become even more widespread in the future.

Korean Cultural History (33)

White Porcelains, Three Painters Of Early Li Dynasty

(Continued from the No. 1,018 issue of the People's Korea)

A large number of various craftworks were produced, following the development of handicraft manufacturing, science and technique. One of the important characteristic features of craftworks in this period is that they were unsophisticated and practical. Their shapes and ornaments were familiar and common. Craftworks of those days were used by the people, unlike those used by privileged people in the Koryo period.

In the 15th century, the Korean people developed various craftworks such as ceramics, metal craftworks, mother-of-pearl works, rush works.

Ceramics, in particular, made progress and were very popular. Some attempts were made early in the Li dynasty to produce pots similar to Koryo celadons. The representative ceramics of the Li dynasty were white porcelains called *Paekcha*. The white porcelains are simple and elegant, but evoke a familiar feeling.

According to *Chiriji of Sejongsillok*, a geography book, about 321 places across the country are recorded as ceramics producing areas.

The white porcelains are rich in variety, varied in shape and are practical. Among the porcelains are pots, jars, earthenware pots, plates, brush cases, pencil vases, ashtrays, flower pots, etc. White-glazed porcelains are beautiful and create an atmosphere of subdued elegance.

The technique of porcelain manufacture in Korea of those days was made known to Japan and greatly contributed to the development of Japanese porcelains. Arita ware and Takatori porcelains in Japan were produced by Korean ceramists.

There were also excellent craftworks made of metal, mother-of-pearl and rush. Most of them were not extant today because of repeated foreign aggression, subversion and plunder.

The bells of the Hunchon Temple (Seoul), the Pongson Temple (Yangju, Kyonggi Prov.) and the Raksan Temple (Kangwon Prov.) were manufactured in this period. In this situation, chief sculpture in those days was images chiseled on the marble pagodas of the Wonkak Temple and the Shinin Temple and the wooden Buddha statue of the Haein Temple, South Kyongsang Province.

There are landscape paintings, figure, genre paintings, paintings of flowers and birds, insects and animals, four gracious plants (plum, orchid, chrysanthemum and bamboo) and other paintings of various kinds. Technically, these paintings are classified into three-water colour paintings, light-coloured pictures and white-and-black drawings.

Representative painters known in the early period of the Li dynasty were An Gyong, Kang Hui An and Li Sang Jwa.

Kang Hui An (1419–1465), a representative painter of the Li dynasty, greatly contributed to the development of paintings after the 15th century.

Kang Hui An was said to have shown his unusual talent from his childhood. He, in particular, excelled in landscape paintings and figure paintings. His representative works were "Cicada," "Meditation" and "On the Bridge." Only extant are "Meditation" and "On the Bridge." Drawn in "Meditation" is a man like a scholar gazing at the calm surface of a pond. Drawn in "On the Bridge" is a man of noble birth crossing a bridge, followed by a boy carrying books and a harp. These pictures are depicted in simple style. The characteristic features of waters and feelings of the men in the picture are well depicted.

The pictures of Kang Hui An are poetic and emotional.

Li Sang Jwa was one of the active painters in the 15th–16th centuries. He was born a man of the lowest class and was promoted to the status of "common people" owing to his artistic skill.

He graphically described the life of the people and their mentality, strong will, and sternness. "A Walk on a Moonlit Night" is his representative work, a light-coloured picture drawn on silk. Depicted in the picture is a weather-beaten pine tree on a precipitous cliff. "A Fierce Tiger" is also a representative picture of his. The ferociousness of tiger can be seen from its eyes, mustache, tongue, tail, the limbs, other features of the tiger he drew.

Paintings in the 15th–16th centuries were strongly influenced by the three above-mentioned painters.

Among other painters in the period were Ryang Paeng Son, Chong Su Gwang, Kim Che, Sin Sa Im Dang, Li Pal Hae, Yun I Gol, Li Jong Gun, Li Gyong Yun. They mainly drew landscape paintings.

Kim Che took pleasure in painting animals and birds. Representative pictures produced in the 16th century are Li Am's Cat and Puppy and female painter Sin Sa Im Dang's Egg-apples, Wild Ducks and Grapes, which are emotional, optimistic and rich in local colour. Genre pictures depicting people in different ages and the "Aristocrat's Desire" deriding an aristocrat wanting to get on in life, reflect the life of the people of various strata.

Korean paintings are original, as they are rooted in the life of the Korean people. They are strong, beautiful and noble pictures.

The great artists of Korean paintings in the early period of the Li dynasty are represented by An Gyon. He produced many representative paintings. He was born at Chigok, Kwangju, Kyonggi Province and lived until 1460.

His works not only reflect life truthfully but are marked by the unique features of Korean paintings– vigorous and elegant brush strokes. In composition and description, they freely introduce various techniques-bold elimination, summation, simplification and coordination. For their artistic mastery, his paintings strongly appeal to viewers.

Active in the 15th century, An Gyon won the greatest popularity as a painter in these days. It is said that each painting of his was held dear and carefully preserved by its lucky owner.

Among An Gyon's many works "Green Mountains and White Clouds" are known as the best, but they do not remain today. Spring Hill in a Dream produced in April 1447 is one of his best works. It is said he drew this picture after hearing about a beautiful peach-blossoming hill seen in a dream. It is a 38.7-by-160 centimetre canvas. An Gyon completed this work in three days. It shows a beautiful spring hill. On the right of the canvas is a deep valley walled off by sheer cliffs from which stretches a fairyland. There, far back, nestles a cosy thatched house among the peach trees in full bloom. From there, towards the left of the canvas, the mountain peaks shoot into the blue. A waterfall is seen cascading down and hosts of mountain streams running in twists and loops. At the foot of the mountain a narrow path winds along the stream. Mountains not far off are in thick green and those far off are in the veil of white mist. In the margin of the canvas there are handwritings by 22 noted government-patronized scholars at the time, including Chong Rin Ji, Pak Yon, Kim Jong So, Sin Suk Ju and Pak Paeng Nyon.

An Gyon was said to have opened up a unique phase in Korean painting in the 15th century and succeeded in finding the fortitude of the Korean people in their simple activity.

An Gyon's pictures are vast and deep in meaning. They are brimful of artless feelings. Each brushstroke carries weight. There is also an arresting contrast between far and near, between light and shade, between big and small.

His pictures depicting life truthfully and carrying a forceful and beautiful touch created fine traditions for the development of Korean painting in the era of the Li dynasty and gave a direct impact upon many painters. (To be continued)

A part of "Green Mountains and White Clouds" drawn by An Gyon, a noted painter of the early Li dynasty

NEWS DISPATCH FROM PYONGYANG

Oct. 17

- A protocol on expanding and developing economic cooperation and commodity exchange between Korea and Romania was signed in Pyongyang.

Oct. 20

- A government delegation of Yugoslavia headed by Dusan Iljevic, Member of the Federal Executive Council of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, arrived in Pyongyang by air to attend the third session of the inter-governmental economic and scientific technological consultative committee of the DPRK and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.
- A delegation of the Soviet-Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee headed by D.F. Kraminov, Editor-in-Chief of the Soviet weekly "Zarubezhom," arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A youth delegation of Romania headed by Pantelimon Gavanescu, First Secretary of the CC of the Union of Communist Youth of Romania and Minister of Youth Affairs, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A delegation of the Hungarian paper "Magyar Hirlap" headed by Varga Jozsef, its Editor-in-Chief, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

Oct. 21

- A delegation of the Korean People's Army headed by Major General An Yun Chan left Pyongyang by plane to attend the celebrations of the army day in the Republic of Rwanda.
- Yasuda Seiko, Member of the Council of the International Amateur Athletic Federation and President of the Asian Amateur Athletic Association, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A delegation of the Federation of Independent Unions of Japan (Churitsuroren) headed by Okamura Shigeru, its General Secretary, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A journalists delegation of Thailand headed by Sanan Hudthagosol, Chairman of the Provincial Journalist Association of Thailand, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A delegation of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions headed by Zhang Qi, Member of its Secretariat, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A Chinese visiting group of dancing masters and dancers headed by Wang Baihua, leading member of the Art Education Bureau of the Ministry of Culture of China, arrived in Pyongyang by train.

Oct. 24

- A protocol of the third session of the inter-governmental economic and scientific-technological consultative committee of the DPRK and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was signed in Pyongyang. A protocol on the mutual delivery of commodities for 1981 between two countries were signed on the same day.
- The State Pyongyang Mansudae Art Troupe of the DPRK headed by Kim Gyong Sop arrived in Rome by special plane for a visit to Italy.

Oct. 27

- Sin Rim Sop, Chairman of the Committee on Korean Studies of the Association for Asian Studies in the United States, arrived in Pyongyang by air.
- A Soviet Government delegation headed by K.F. Katushev, vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R., arrived in Pyongyang by special plane to attend the 16th meeting of the inter-governmental economic and scientific-technological consultative committee of the DPRK and the Soviet Union.
- Humberto Ortiz Flores, Secretary General of the Equadorian Committee for Supporting Korea's Reunification and Manager of the "Voluntad" Publishing House, arrived in Pyongyang by plane.

(KCNA)

SHORT NEWS FROM SEOUL

Oct. 10

- The 2nd south Korea-England policy consultative council was held in Seoul and it discussed the international situation to strengthen the bilateral friendly relations.
- Chon Du Hwan held the registration of the amount of private property on the pretext of "preventing high-level public officials from illicitly amassing money". The affected persons will be over 30,000 officials, including those of state-run corporations.

Oct. 11

- Foreign Minister Ro Sin Yong conferred with Gleysteen, U.S. ambassador to Seoul on the situation in south Korea and matters of mutual concern.
- The special committee of the national security measures announced that about 46,000 were arrested during the period of the social evil purge from last August to that day.

Oct. 12

- Ex-president Choi Gyu Ha left for the U.S. for a medical treatment.

Oct. 13

- President Chon Du Hwan conferred with Wickham, U.S. commander in south Korea on the military situation in and out of Korean Peninsula.
- Kim Jong Gon, navy chief of general staff, invited to the navy headquarters his predecessors including Chong Gyong Mo, Ri Song Ho and Kim Yong Gan for briefing.

Oct. 18

- Foreign Minister Ro Sin Yong conferred with Michael Armacost, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asia and the Pacific of the U.S. State Department on matters of mutual concern including the annual security consultative meeting and the 2nd south Korea-U.S. policy consultative council.

Oct. 20

- According to the price statistics of September made available by authorities, the consumer price index (1975:100) was 231.0, a 2.2 percent increase over the preceding month, 30.1 percent higher than that of September last year. The wholesale price index was 236.2, up 2.5 percent from the preceding month, 35.9 percent higher than that of September last year.

Oct. 23

- According to a survey released by Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the amount of deficit in trade with Japan from January to September reached about $2,180 million, with imports from Japan of $4,420 million. (Deficit in trade with Japan was $227,500,000 in 1966, $570,000,000 in 1970 and $3,300,000,000 last year, bringing the total deficits to $16,220 million.
- The Asia Development Bank (ADB) approved of a loan of $40 million to the Small and Medium Industry Bank. The bank loans from the ADB reached $165,000,000.

U.S. Charged with 126,800 Violations

—At 403rd Meeting of MAC—

The Pyongyang side accused the U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC) of violating the Armistice Agreement and rejected its allegations on "a foiled Pyongyang's infiltration attempt" as a fabrication used to cover up American attempts to provoke a new war at the 403rd meeting of the Military Armistice Commission (MAC) held on Nov. 18 at Panmunjom.

At the meeting in the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone, Major General Han Ju Gyong, senior member of the Pyongyang side remarked, "The cases of the violation of the Armistice Agreement committed by your side against our side in the skies, on the ground and the sea amount to a total of over 126,800 from November 18, 1975 to November 15 this year."

Nov. 18, 1975 is the day when a resolution of the creation of a favourable condition for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea was adopted at the 30th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Maj. Gen. Han Ju Gyong also said, "The number of the violations of the Armistice Agreement by your side amounted to over 9,300 during the period from June 24 to November 15 this year."

The U.S. infiltrated a highspeed, high-altitude reconnaissance plane "SR-71" into the airspace above coastal waters of the east and west seas on November 13 and 14 to commit espionage hostile to the DPRK.

On August 23 the south Korean army infiltrated a destroyer into western coastal waters and on November 6 it fired large-calibre machine guns and light machine guns at the Pyongyang side's posts.

The senior member of the Pyongyang side noted that highranking military quarters in the Pentagon are zealously pushing ahead with the plan for provoking a new war with outcries over someone's "surprise attack."

The U.S. has transferred military equipment and weapons worth a total of more than 374 million dollars to the Seoul authorities in fiscal 1980 alone and are scheming to additionally deploy two squadrons of "F-16" fighters in south Korea.

On October 28 and 29, the U.S. conducted a "ROK-U.S. combined exercise" codenamed "Cope Jade-81-1" by introducing into south Korea huge forces of the U.S. army, navy and air force.

He argued, "We have proposed many a time to the United States to hold a dialogue between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the United States and sign a peace agreement in order to turn the armistice into a durable peace at an early date in accordance with U.N. resolution.

"The U.S., however, are still occupying south Korea contrary to the U.N. resolution and seeking division and war, fascism and a reactionary policy."

Stating that it is not a "threat of southward aggression" but the threat of northward invasion by the south that is actually felt in Korea today, the senior member of the Pyongyang side emphasized:

"In order to remove the tension and war danger prevailing in our country, the U.S. must promptly stop the military provocations and war exercises against us and immediately withdraw from south Korea in accordance with the United Nations resolution."

He recalled that recently the DPRK once again proposed to the United States to hold negotiations to replace the armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

"How the United States approach this proposal will be its clear answer to the question of war or peace," said Maj. Gen. Han. (KCNA)

RPR Issues Declaration On Situation

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification made public a "Declaration on the Situation" on November 8 in Seoul to cope with the present difficulties created in south Korea by the U.S. imperialists and the military fascist gang, according to radio "Voice of the Revolutionary Party for Reunification."

Follows a summary of the declaration:

Traitor Chon Du Hwan trumped up through a forcible "referendum" the ill-famed "amendment to the constitution," the second "yusin constitution," to legalize his permanent office and the military fascist dictatorship and is destroying everything standing in the way of the maintenance of the dictatorial power.

The poisonous tongue of the fascist dictator replaces all the laws in the graveyard of freedom where even the "national assembly" and political parties which had been nothing but a decoration of the south Korean political quarters were liquidated without a trace overnight and the disguise of the separation of three powers disappeared with the proclamation of the fascist "constitution."

The oppressive juridical documents issued in rapid succession by the "legislative council for national security," a private legislative tool of traitor Chon Du Hwan, which has replaced the "Chongwa-dae-style national assembly," taboo all the established political activities and allow only acts meekly obeying the fascist orders.

Particularly, after the proposal for the founding of the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, a new common charter of reunification of the nation, gripped the hearts of the south Korean people and aroused their stronger sentiments for reunification than ever before, the Chon Du Hwan fascist clique, frightended by this, has sealed up all arguments about reunification and is racing headlong toward permanent division.

The United States is standing behind the Chon Du Hwan military fascist dictatorship. The establishment of the Chon Du Hwan military fascist dictatorship and the appearance of a new military administration are an inevitable excrement of the U.S. colonial policy in south Korea which is facing a crisis and this reflects the political climate of the White House suffering one setback after another in all parts of the globe.

The United States is the hideous prime mover in staging the shuddering bloodbath and establishing the new colonial military fascist dictatorship on a sea of blood and it is also the backstage manipulator instigating the fascist gangsters to the slaughter of the people and permanent division.

The U.S. imperialists are the very strangler of democracy and human rights, the wirepuller of fascism behind the scene and the mastermind of permanent division.

The hideous fascist and splittist rule of the U.S. imperialists and the military fascist dictators today has landed the south Korean people in the grimmest trial at the crossroads of life and death.

The south Korean people of all walks of life should determinedly rise up again and hold high the banner of the anti-fascist, anti-Chon Du Hwan struggle, overcoming the temporary throes and difficulties.

Under the rigorous situation in which the tyranny of the military fascist dictatorship has reached the culminating point, the Revolutionary Party for Reunification solemnly declares as follows with the will to cope with the present difficulties in south Korea:

1. The Chon Du Hwan military fascist dictatorship, the second "yusin system," must be overthrown and the democratization of society realized.

2. The "emergency martial law" and fascist evil laws must be repealed and all repressive ruling machines destroyed.

3. All the detainees and political prisoners must be released and all penalties imposed upon them nullified.

4. All the political parties and public organizations must be legalized and their free political activities guaranteed.

5. An anti-fascist, anti-Chon Du Hwan democratic united front must be formed to fight with united strength.

6. An end must be put to the aggression of south Korea by the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries and their interference in its internal affairs.

7. A nation-wide united movement must be launched to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo.

Chon Du Hwan Holding Mass Media under Control

The Chon Du Hwan junta has now turned its attention to the centralization of news gathering in south Korea.

In separate meetings, the Korean Newspapers Association (KNA) and the Korean Broadcasters Association (KBA) Nov. 14 called their board of directors meetings and general assemblies and agreed to carry out a drastic restructuring of their member companies including mergers, under "government" orders. They approved identical-worded resolutions.

The resolutions said that the twin associations endorsed the establishment of an influential new news agency to report and distribute news about south Korea at home and abroad.

Informed sources said that the Orient Press which is known as Tongyang News Agency, and Hapdong News Agency are to be merged into a single agency which will supply local and foreign news.

Once the Orient Press and the Haptong News Agency are merged, a new agency is to absorb small news agencies including Sisa, Sanop and Economic news agencies, it was learned.

On the other hand, two commercial radio stations are to close down, to be absorbed by the state-run Korea Broadcasting System (KBS), and the semiofficial Munhwa (Culture) Broadcasting Company (MBC).

The Christian Broadcasting System, run by a religious foundation, would end its general entertainment programs and broadcast religious programs only.

Shin-A Ilbo, considered a financial weakling among Seoul's seven major dailies, would be closed down, and radio-TV networks run by two other major papers would be absorbed into the state-owned KBS.

Informed also reported that fourteen daily newspapers in provincial cities will be reduced to nine, one in each province, and all news from other provinces will be provided by a single news agency, not by correspondents in provincial cities and in Seoul.

National-circulation and local newspapers and broadcast media are to withdraw all their correspondents according to the resolutions of the KNA and the KBS.

The authorities say that this drastic reform is necessary to eliminate possible sources of irregularities involving journalists and to increase their salaries and welfare benefits, besides ensuring an efficient operation of the news media.

But the measure taken by the Chon junta is a step designed to control all the press organs of south Korea under the pretext of putting together and simplifying them, to completely deny their original function of reporting as a mirror of public opinion and turn them into its official mouthpieces.

(Continued from page 1)

Sik, Yu Yong Bok, Li Si Jun, Han Myong Su, Kal Bong Gun, 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Ko Gil Nam,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Ko Jae Pil,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Bong Gi,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Se Bae,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Yong Gwang,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Yong Su,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Yong Ja,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Ok Ryol,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Yong Ho,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **KimYu Bok,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Kim Jong Ha,** 10th national assembly member (Yujong-hoe), **Nam Jae Han, Pak Dong Myo, Pak Jung Gyu, Pak Hyon So, Pak Hyong Gyu, Pak Hyong Gyu, Paeak Yong Hun, Pyon U Ryang, Kim Jin Man,** 10th National Assembly member (DRP), **Pak Jong Gyu, Pak Chan Jong, O Yu Sang, Yang Sung Hwa, Li Se Ho, Ro Jae Hyon, Li Gon Yong, Kim Hak Won, Chang Tae Wan, Mun Hong Gu, Ku Ja Chun, Kim Jong Kyon,** former ambassador to Japan, **Kim Chi Ryol,** former minister of justice **Kim Hyon Ok,** former minister of home affairs, **Chin Bok Gil, Pak Dong Jin, Kim Ok Gil,** President of Korean Association of University Women, **Li Dogn Hwa, Li Chol Sung, Kim Sogn Jin, Min Bok Gi,** former chief justice of Supreme Court, **Kim Dong Jo,** former special assistant to the president for foreign affairs, **Kang Chang Song,** former director of the Korea Maritime and Port Administration, **Ko Jae Il,** former minister of construction, **Chang Song Un, Kim Ryong Hwan,** former minister of finance, **Li Rak Son,** Chief director of Chargwon Industry, **Han Byong Gi,** former ambassador to Canada, **Kim Nam Jung,** chairman of Chonmam Ilbo or Chonil Broadcasting Co., **Kim Byong Su, Kim Bu Hyon,** president of Kyongnam Maeil Shinmun, **Kim Sang Gyun, Pak Sil, So Dong Gu, Kim Gwan Sok, Li Dong Uk,** President of Dong-A Ilbo, **Pang U Yong,** member of Korean Press Ethics Commission, **Mun Tae Gap,** auditor of Seoul Shinmun, **Kim Sang Hyop,** President of Korea University, **Kwon Ui Hyok,** director of Seoul National University Hospital, **An Se Hui,** former vice-president of Yonsei University, **Chong Ui Suk.**

Sordid Celebration in Seoul: New York Times

EDITOR'S NOTE: The International Herald Tribune, in its Nov. 21 issue, carried an editorial of the New York Times entitled "Sordid Celebration in Seoul." Excerpts:

According to news reports, President Carter's defeat was greeted with jubilation by the military rulers of South Korea. We wonder why. In the past depressing six months, President Chun Doo Hwan has tightened his grip and fled from his promise of democratic reform. In response, Washington has glowered a little, but nothing more. It says something about the insecurity of Gen. Chun that even this glowering should have provoked so much annoyance.

That same insecurity may explain the new wave of repression that followed the U.S. election. The Chun regime has banned nearly every prominent opposition leader from political activity (835 in all), thereby eliminating all serious challengers from next year's presidential voting. That takes a good deal of the gloss off the new constitution that contained apparently meaningless guarantees of free speech.

The government has also sponsored a plan to merge South Korea's news agencies and newspapers. The ostensible reason is that Koreans have been "confused" by "too many" media. In fact, the press has already become a pliant propaganda organ for the government. No reader could be "confused" by its reporting of the show-trial of Kim Dae Jung, now under death sentence for alleged sedition.

If that sentence is sustained by the Korean Supreme Court, only the president could save him. An outspoken democrat, Mr. Kim has never been forgiven for daring to challenge (and worse, almost beating) the late President Park Chung Hee in a 1971 election. Gen. Chun may figure that the right time to get rid of Mr. Kim once and for all is while Americans are caught up elsewhere, between two administrations.

To kill an opposition leader for a political "crime" is not the act of a secure and stable government. It is behavior associated with a frightened and closed society.

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